



TO the influence of the German singing societies of New York, of which the Arion and the Liederkrantz are the robust parents, the metropolis owes much of its musical progress. Nowhere else in the world, except in Germany, are the works of Richard Wagner so well known and appreciated. It was the Arion Society that imported Dr. Leopold Damrosch as its director. It was Dr. Damrosch who brought Wagner to the notice of the musical public of America, and it was his son and successor, Walter Damrosch, who, with his fine operatic organization, won the chief operatic laurels of the present season, giving to Wagner and the other great composers as thorough interpretations as they have received in America.

These results can, as just stated, be traced directly to the musical influence so carefully fostered by the German singing societies. It is easy to demonstrate that the same influence is accountable for much of the financial success which has rewarded the efforts of musicians in New York. The singing societies represent the social and artistic focus of the German population, and the German population of all ages would cast a plurality of votes if parties were to be formed on lines of nationality alone. As it is probable that few are aware of this, the following, from the table published in the report of the Tenement House Committee of 1894, is quoted:

Germans, 403,784; Irish, 399,348; Natives, 334,725; Italians, 54,334; Russians and Poles, 80,235.

The older of the two great German singing societies is the Liederkrantz, which celebrated its semi-centennial last January in its handsome clubhouse on Fifty-eighth street, near Park avenue. The home of the Liederkrantz is a "home" in a truer sense of the word than in its application to almost any other club in existence. Though the Liederkrantz is pre-eminently a singing society, it has a general library of several thousand volumes, bowling alleys and other means of recreation, which are at the service of the members and their families. Out of a membership of about 1,400 there are about 150 singing members, with a woman's chorus of seventy-five voices.

The Liederkrantz clubhouse contains many trophies of its prowess as a singing organization, won abroad and at home. The next European trip of its singing corps will occur this Spring. In May it will sail for Europe with an itinerary embracing the principal cities of Germany. The trip will occupy about six weeks.

Upon the death of William Steinway, Julius Hoffman, the present presiding officer of the Liederkrantz, took his seat. The other officers are:

First vice-president, Richard H. Adams; second vice-president, William Vigelius; corresponding secretary, G. Julius Hauser; recording secretary, Henry Galoupean; treasurer, J. Carlsen.

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Charles Bartens, Dr. W. F. Mutendorf, F. A. Ringler, William Vigelius, Dr. L. Arcularius, B. F. Drakenfeld, G. A. Euring, H. G. Ramsperger, Dr. William Balser, Charles W. Kurtz, Hermann Rokohl, E. Lothar Schmitz.

#### SINGING LEADERS.

J. G. Breitwieser, Max Ludwig, first tenor; Gustav Dieterich, second tenor; Louis Dietz, Emil Vogel, first bass; Charles G. F. Wahle, Alfred Kammerer, second bass.



*Julius Hoffman*

Julius Hoffman, President of the Liederkrantz.



*Richard Weinacht*

President of the Arion Society.

### Active Members of the Liederkrantz.

#### FIRST TENOR.

William Bartels, Theodore Becker, Henry Benedikt, Franz L. Berger, Moritz Bing, Henry Brandels, Adolph Braumann, J. G. Breitwieser, Robert Franke, Ferd. Freytag, Edward Gell, Jacob Graff, Theodore Hertwig, Ferd. Heye, Adolph C. Hoefling, Alexander Hoffken, Ernst Hornbogen, Franz Keller, August Klausmeyer, F. Krimmling, Julius Kriech, Arnold Kuttner, Otto Lehmann, Albert Lelsel, Max Ludwig, Carl Naeser, Charles R. Schliess, Adolph Silbernagel, W. T. Spiegelberg, Dr. A. E. Thayer, Fried. Voelcker, George Werrenrath.

#### SECOND TENOR.

Wilb. Alten, W. Benedikt, Wm. Bode, Arn. B. Bosse, Leonh. L. Breitwieser, Gust. Dieterich, Chas. E. Dressler, Ernst Finsterbusch, Gustav Frenzel, Charles H. Graff, Dr. F. H. Gruenthal, G. J. Hauser, Carl Heye, Otto Hoch, Alex. Holthausen, Gustav Jost, Carl Kaiser, Frank J. Keller, Charles Kogge, August Kost, Jr., C. W. Kurtz, Wm. H. Kurtz, Waldemar Maier, Fritz Muller, Ernst J. Munch, Charles Nettner, F. Pape, Gustav Porges, Jacob Ross, Isidor Scharff, Otto von Schrenck, Dr. Max Toepf, Robert A. Wimmer, Friedr. C. Winter.

#### FIRST BASS.

Wilhelm Bardewyck, Hubert Becker, August Bostroem, Edward Bues, Dr. Titus M. Conn, F. Degele, Leopold Demuth, Louis Dietz, Alfred B. Dressler, Robert Dressler, Otto R. Ebel, Chas. H. Eckert, Anton Eggers, L. von Eltz, Carl Gerhardt, Dr. Otto Gumprecht, Hermann Hopf, Sixt. C. Kapff, Adam Keller, Arthur J. Keller, Nathan S. Kohn, Const. Lucius, Dr. R. W. Muller, A. F. Ottman, Oscar Radon, John Retzlaff, E. W. Reuling, S. Herm. P. Schall, Albert Stahl, Albert Susemihl, Ernst F. Tiedemann, Henry G. Vocke, Emil Vogel, Richard Wagner, F. M. Welchert, David Wertheim, Gustav Winternitz.

#### SECOND BASS.

Charles F. Allesky, Paul Allesky, Robert Baumbach, J. Carl Bendler, Friedr. Bornemann, Dr. Wm. Calle, Fritz Carlsen, Wm. Domansky, Gustav Drobegg, Wm. M. Eisen, Ernst Erdmann, G. A. Euring, Carl Funke, Jos. Geisler, Otto A. Graff, Edw. Hartmann, Frederick Henderich, Rudolph C. Hertwig, Chas. Hetzel, Emil T. Hoffmann, George Hollerith, Emil Horn, Theodore Hufeland, Alfred Kammerer, Jac. J. Kammerer, Jul. A. Klipp, Rudolph Luhrs, Theodor Peters, J. Ferd. Poggenburg, Eugene J. Rauchfuss, Wilhelm Poggenburg, Dr. William Rausch, Edouard Richter, Dr. George Rodemann, Robert G. Schmidt, Alexander Schmitz, Franz Schreiner, Arthur Schuler, Max Schwab, Emil Steiger, Edwin Textor, Walter Timme, Hermann Trost, St., Hermann Trost, Jr., Charles G. F. Wahle.

The Arion Society, though of more recent origin than the Liederkrantz, has been able already to embellish its spacious home, at the corner of Fifty-ninth street and Park avenue, with medals and trophies of victories gained in singing tournaments here and in Europe, which abundantly attest its high standing among the singing organizations of the world. The following statement regarding the society was furnished by its president, Richard Weinacht:

"On January 23, 1854, thirteen members of the Deutscher Liederkrantz seceded from that society and founded a new singing society which they called Maennergesangverein Arion. The new society progressed wonderfully, and in the course of a few years was able to compete with the best singing societies, and won its first laurels at the Saengerfest at Buffalo with 'Vineta,' by Abt. Later on, under the leadership of the late Musical Director Carl Bergmann, the chorus of the Arion Society participated with great success in the first performance in this country of Wagner's opera 'Tannhauser,' but its greatest achievement at that time was the opera 'Der Freischuetz,' given three times at the Academy of Music here, with Parepa Rosa, William Candidus and Franz Remmert in the leading parts, and Carl Bergmann as musical director.

"The Arion Society imported the well-known Dr. Leopold Damrosch as its director, and when he resigned, in 1884, engaged Frank van der Stucken, under whose skilful leadership the chorus of the society reached the highest perfection in the songs of the Fatherland. The present conductor is Mr. Julius Lorenz, who is thoroughly able to lead the Arion to new triumphs and to maintain the high position which it has attained in the musical world.

"In 1892 the society rented the steamer Wieland, of the Hamburg-American line, and on June 10, 1892, left New York with sixty-five singers, under Van der